

White Earth Reservation Business Committee

Special Meeting

May 9, 2024

White Earth, MN

Chairman Michael A. Fairbanks called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m., roll call was taken with a quorum present.

Present: Michael A. Fairbanks, Chairman
Michael LaRoque, Secretary/Treasurer
Henry Fox, District I Representative ~ Via Teams
Eugene Sommers, District II Representative
Cheryl "Annie" Jackson, District III Representative

Absent:

Others Present: Laurie York, Executive Director
Andrea Kingbird, General Counsel
Ayecia Kemp, Executive Administrative Assistant
Maria Bevins, Recorder

Agenda Approval

Additions:

- **Elder Home Repair ~ New Business**
- **Land Lots ~ New Business**
- **Donation Request for Youth Summer Basketball Tournaments ~ New Business**
- **I.H.S Letter of Intent ~ New Business**
- **Legal Update ~ Executive Session**
- **Media Press Releases ~ New Business**

Motion made by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson to approve with additions; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

RBC Meeting Minutes (04-19-24)

Motion made by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson to approve; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against

Calendar Review

The Administration Calendar was provided to the RBC.

Old Business

Tribal Council Formal Code of Ethics on Election:

Secretary/Treasurer LaRoque referenced the memo to the RBC. RBC in consensus and will sign the referenced memo.

New Business

Resolution Gaming Commission ~ Addendum to Tribal-State Blackjack Compact:

Christie Haverkamp provided a brief overview of the addendum to the Tribal State Blackjack Compact.

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. 090-24-003; second by Eugene Sommers.

Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Tammie Poitra, Regional Director BIA Letter:

Secretary/Treasurer LaRoque referenced the letter to the RBC.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for,

0 against.

Elder Homeowner Repair Program:

\$300,000 was provided to each district for homeowner repairs. No funding was offered to off reservation tribal members at that time. Secretary/Treasurer LaRoque commented on completing Phase I. A spreadsheet was sent to the Tribal Council on their current projects with all the information sent to White Earth Builders. After the election, Secretary/Treasurer LaRoque would like to move forward with Phase II and to find more funding resources for the Homeowner Repair Program. The District Representatives had several applications turned in. Recommendation to finish Phase I and move onto Phase II working directly with White Earth Builders. RBC in consensus.

Land Lots:

A brief discussion was held on our constituents having no way of clearing their homesites or to put in their own driveways. RBC needs to find funding for this purpose. Recommendation to work with forestry, roads, and water & sewer. Tribal members do not have the money to do this work. Recommendation to find resources and funding to assist with the costs. A brief discussion was held on existing lots that have been abandoned and currently cleaned.

Representative Sommers commented on homesites in District II. Recommendation to search for EPA funding to help with these home sites.

Donation Request for Youth Summer Basketball Tournaments:

Recommendation to work with the Youth and Elder fund Committee for these donations. A brief discussion was held on traveling basketball teams and sponsoring these events. Recommendation to meet with Curtis on Monday regarding the traveling basketball teams.

AU Team put in a request to Representative Sommers. The request is for 9 of our youth to attend a tournament. They will have the exposure for college recruits. Requested amount: \$6,000, this will include flights, food, hotel, and car rental. Representative Sommers will refer to the Youth and Elder Fund Committee for this request. A brief discussion on setting aside funds for youth for sports.

I.H.S Letter of Intent; Resolution Intent to Incur Pre-Award and Startup Costs – I.H.S:

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve Resolution No. 064-24-072; second by Eugene Sommers.

Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Media Press Releases:

A brief discussion was held on the actions that the Tribal Council approves of. Secretary/Treasurer LaRoque brought forward concerns regarding tribal members finding out from other entities on these actions and being misinformed.

Secretary/Treasurer LaRoque commented on having our media work with the Chairman for press releases to keep the membership informed and updated for transparency on the decisions that the Tribal Council makes. White Earth will work with our own media for this purpose. The Tribal Council attends many events and needs to be proactive. Secretary/Treasurer LaRoque stated the Chairman speaks for the White Earth Band and the updates need to come from our chairman for media releases and we need to start utilizing the media outlets.

Laurie stated White Earth is getting a new website, and an Intern will be joining the media team to help assist in these areas.

A brief discussion held on the A.I. Representative Jackson commented on how many of our members do not use computers and how to get the information out to membership. A brief discussion was held on the new Teams phones.

COLA Requested Twins Tickets:

COLA is requesting 25-30 tickets for incentives for students at \$14.00 dollars per ticket. These tickets will be through the Shooting Star Casino.

Motion made by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson to approve; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Consent Agenda / Signatory Requests for May 9, 2024

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to approve; second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to go into Executive session at 10:44 a.m.; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Motion made by Michael LaRoque to recess meeting at 10:45 a.m.; second by Eugene Sommers. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to reconvene meeting at 11:06 a.m.; second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Land:

Megan Bakken is present and provided brief updates.

Amendments correcting amounts for purchases of the conservation fund lands. Amending original resolution to reflect actual closing costs.

- Resolution No. 056-24-056A – WELO TCF Land Purchase: General Fund
- Resolution No. 056-24-057A – TCF Parcel Purchase – WELSA

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to approve; second by Michael LaRoque. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Legal Update:

[REDACTED]

Executive Session ended at 11:10 a.m.

Motion made by Eugene Sommers to adjourn meeting at 11:10 a.m.; second by Cheryl "Annie" Jackson.
Motion carried: 4 for, 0 against.

Michael LaRoque, Secretary/LaRoque